GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2671
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Emission from Coal Plants
Mondal Smt. Pratima

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing damage caused by emission produced from coal fired power plants that produce sulphur dioxide affecting health of people, damaging flora and fauna, buildings and monuments of archaeological importance and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(b) whether the Government has initiated any action to strengthen R&D and technological initiatives in order to come up with solutions to remove the sulphur dioxide from the emitted gas and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is aware of the new research findings that the effect of emission of sulphur dioxide from the Northern Hemispheres has changed the relative rate of warming in the southern hemispheres; and
(d) if so, whether the Government has taken action to address this issue as a global concern?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d) High levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) in environment above specified limits can adversely affect health of people. However, as per the data available under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), the values of SO2 are generally well within the permissible limit. The steps taken to reduce pollution from thermal power plants include stricter emission limit for particulate matter, SO2 & NOx, use of beneficiated coal, mandatory use of flyash to achieve 100 % flyash utilization, conservation of water, etc. Government takes note of various reports published from time to time and has already taken steps to strengthen environmental standards relating to thermal power plants.
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